

VETO OF HOUSE BILL.

March 31, 1885.<sup>19</sup>

*To the House of Representatives:*

GENTLEMEN—I find myself unable to approve House bill No. 96. There is no doubt about the service required on public highways being a burden exacted in the nature of taxation. Under this bill persons in the same county living in different road precincts can be compelled to contribute double the duty of that exacted of their neighbors living in sight, but in another precinct. This undoubtedly violates section 1 of article 8 of the Constitution. Again, this bill is in the nature of a special law. Indeed, it is more objectionable because it empowers commissioners' courts to enforce special and local acts. No more effectual mode could be adopted to render the citizen dissatisfied with his government than that which inflicts a tax or exacts a duty not imposed on his neighbor.

The two houses adjourn today, and I have not time to extend these remarks.

JOHN IRELAND, Governor.

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<sup>19</sup>*House Journal*, 452.